

What is claimed is:

1. An enterprise output management and information control system for managing data transmissions between pluralities of work stations and application servers and digital output destinations, said system comprising:

a system server in communication with each of the pluralities of work stations and application servers and digital output destinations, the system server (a) receiving report jobs generated at the plurality of work stations and application servers, (b) translating the received report jobs into a format appropriate for a destined digital output destination, and (c) routing the received report jobs in the appropriate format to the destined digital output destination.

2. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 1, wherein the system server comprises:

a plurality of input ports receiving the generated report jobs from the plurality of work stations and application servers;

a plurality of output queues each assigned a particular digital output destination to which report jobs are submitted; and

a rules and analysis system (a) analyzing report jobs received at the plurality of input ports, (b) translating the analyzed report jobs into a format appropriate for a destined digital output destination, and (c) routing the translated report jobs to the output queue associated with the destined digital output destination.

3. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 2, wherein each report job is generated in one of a plurality of data formats and transmitted from the plurality of work stations and application servers to the system server via one of a plurality of input transport mechanisms, and wherein each of the plurality of input ports is assigned a particular data format and a particular input transport mechanism for receiving generated report jobs.

4. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 3, wherein the plurality of data formats comprise PjL, PCL, Test and Raw SNA/APPC data formats.

5. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 3, wherein the plurality of input transport mechanisms comprise file transfer protocol (IP/FTP), Net BIOS/Net BEUI printer shares, file sharing systems as established by network operating system manufacturers, line printer requestor/line printer daemon relationships (LPR/LPD), and Internet printing protocol.

6. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 2, wherein the plurality of input ports each maintains its own queue of unprocessed report jobs and a history of received report jobs.

7. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 2, wherein the plurality of output queues each include a transmission mechanism for examining and evaluating a status of the plurality of digital output destinations.

8. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 7, wherein the transmission mechanism is selected from the group consisting of SNMP Query and Response, IP Ping and Response, Accessibility of Network File Share, and existence and content of a status file.

9. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 7, wherein the plurality of output queues generate an alert notification upon detection of an abnormal condition at its assigned digital output destination.

10. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 9, wherein the alert notification is communicated to select alert recipients via an alert mechanism.

11. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 10, wherein the alert mechanism is selected from the group consisting of a network message, e-mail, visual on-screen alert, auditory alert, pager, voice mail, local application launch, remote application launch, and an error log entry.

12. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 1, further comprising an archive viewer storing all report jobs received at the system server.

13. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 12, wherein report jobs stored in the archive viewer are stored in the appropriate format of their destined digital output destination.

14. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 1, wherein the generated report jobs include report data, and wherein the system server further comprises:

a forms database storing a plurality of different types of forms; and

a report formatting module (a) analyzing the report data, (b) selecting one of the plurality of forms from the forms database based upon the analyzation, and (c) merging the report data with the selected form to develop the received report jobs.

15. The enterprise output management and information control system of claim 14, wherein the report data includes a first horizontal and vertical coordinate system and the selected form includes a second horizontal and vertical coordinate system, and wherein the system server further comprises a configuration file storing alteration information data indicative of merging report data having the first horizontal and vertical coordinate system with the form having the second horizontal and vertical coordinate system, the alteration information data accessed and used by the report formatting module in merging the report data with the selected form.

16. An enterprise output management and information control system for managing report data generated at a work station and/or application server, said system comprising:

a forms database storing a plurality of different forms each having a unique format of horizontal and vertical coordinate data, wherein the generated report data has a unique format of horizontal and vertical coordinate data selected from a plurality of horizontal and vertical coordinate report data:

a configuration file storing a plurality of alteration configuration data files, one for each combination of report data and file formats;

a report formatting module (a) analyzing the generated report data, (b) selecting one of the plurality of different forms from the forms database based upon the analyzation, (c) selecting one of the plurality of alteration configuration files based upon the unique formats of the generated report data and selected form, and (d) merging the generated report data with the selected form using the selected alteration configuration file to develop a final form document.

17. A document and information control system for managing data transmissions between pluralities of work stations and print devices, said system comprising:

a system server in communication with each of the pluralities of work stations and print devices, the system server (a) receiving print jobs generated at the plurality of work stations, (b) translating the received print jobs into a format appropriate for a destined print device, and (c) routing the received print jobs in the appropriate format to the destined print device.

18. The document and information control system of claim 17, wherein the system server comprises:

a plurality of input ports receiving the generated print jobs from the plurality of work stations;

a plurality of output queues each assigned a particular print device to which print jobs are submitted; and

a rules and analysis system (a) analyzing print jobs received at the plurality of input ports, (b) translating the analyzed print jobs into a format appropriate for a destined print

device, and (c) routing the translated print jobs to the output queue associated with the destined print device.

19. The document and information control system of claim 18, wherein each print job is generated in one of a plurality of data formats and transmitted from the plurality of work stations to the system server via one of a plurality of input transport mechanisms, and wherein each of the plurality of input ports is assigned a particular input data format and a particular transport mechanism for receiving generated print jobs.

20. The document and information control system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of data formats comprise PJI, PCL, Test and Raw SNA/APPC data formats.

21. The document and information control system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of transport mechanisms comprise file transfer protocol (IP/FTP), Net BIOS/Net BEUI printer shares, file sharing systems as established by network operating system manufacturers, line printer requestor/line printer daemon relationships (LPR/LPD), and Internet printing protocol.

22. The document and information control system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of input ports each maintains its own queue of unprocessed print jobs and a history of received print jobs.

23. The document and information control system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of output queues each include a transmission mechanism for examining and evaluating a status of the plurality of print devices.

24. The document and information control system of claim 23, wherein the transmission mechanism is selected from the group consisting of SNMP Query and Response, IP Ping and Response, Accessibility of Network File Share, and existence and content of a status file.

25. The document and information control system of claim 23, wherein the plurality of output queues generate an alert notification upon detection of an abnormal condition at its assigned print device.

26. The document and information control system of claim 25, wherein the alert notification is communicated to select alert recipients via an alert mechanism.

27. The document and information control system of claim 26, wherein the alert mechanism is selected from the group consisting of a network message, e-mail, visual on-screen alert, auditory alert, pager, voice mail, local application launch, remote application launch, and an error log entry.

28. The document and information control system of claim 17, further comprising an archive viewer storing all print jobs received at the system server.

29. The document and information control system of claim 28, wherein print jobs stored in the archive viewer are stored in the appropriate format of their destined print device.

30. The document and information control system of claim 17, wherein the generated print jobs include report data, and wherein the system server further comprises:

a forms database storing a plurality of different types of forms; and

a report formatting module (a) analyzing the report data, (b) selecting one of the plurality of forms from the forms database based upon the analyzation, and (c) merging the report data with the selected form to develop the received print jobs.

31. The document and information control system of claim 30, wherein the report data includes a first horizontal and vertical coordinate system and the selected form includes a second horizontal and vertical coordinate system, and wherein the system server further comprises a configuration file storing alteration information data indicative of merging report data having the first horizontal and vertical coordinate system with the form having the second horizontal and vertical coordinate system, the alteration information data accessed and used by the report formatting module in merging the report data with the selected form.